

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
15 September 2005 (15.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/084691 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61K 35/12**,  
C12N 5/02, 5/10, 15/86

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/CA2005/000345

(22) International Filing Date: 4 March 2005 (04.03.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/549,870 4 March 2004 (04.03.2004) US

(71) Applicants and

(72) Inventors: MEAKIN, Susan, Oriole [CA/CA]; 127  
Carriage Hill Drive, London, Ontario N5X 3W9 (CA).  
VOLKENING, Kathryn, Elizabeth [CA/CA]; 261  
Wildgoose Road, London, Ontario N5W 6E2 (CA).

(74) Agent: FAGGETTER, Ronald; SMART & BIGGAR,  
438 University Avenue, Suite 1500, Box 111, Toronto, On-  
tario M5G 2K8 (CA).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ,  
TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,  
ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,  
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

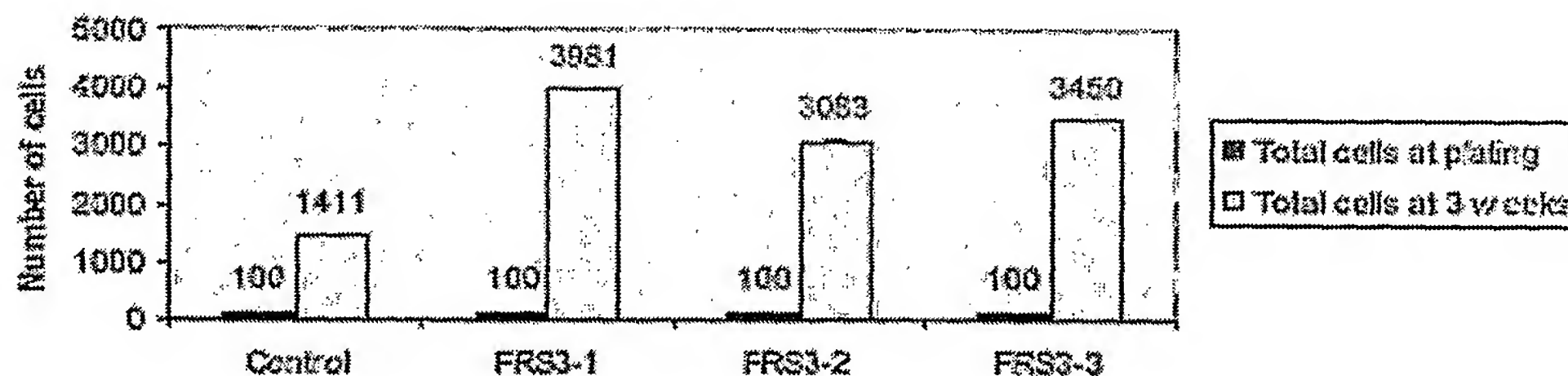
- with international search report
- with amended claims

**Date of publication of the amended claims:** 3 November 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: METHOD OF PROLIFERATING PRECURSOR CELLS

**Proliferation of Neural Crest Stem Cells in Culture**



(57) Abstract: There is provided a method of proliferating precursor cells by modulating the expression of the protein FRS3 within the precursor cells. The method is useful for the production of large populations of precursor cells, which are useful for *in vitro* research techniques, including drug screening, and for *in vivo* therapeutic uses.

WO 2005/084691 A1